

ENGLAND  
**Fair Warning**  
TO A  
Speedy Repentance:

BEING  
An Earnest Exhortation to a Holy Life: Or,  
The only Deliverer from Eternal Death  
and Destruction.

Wherein is plainly laid down  
The great Duty of speedy Repentance, with the  
Wretched State of a Sinner, and the Blessed State  
of a Saint: Shewing how the one (after Death)  
will be cast for ever into the dreadful Flames of  
Hell-Fire: And the other will be received up into  
Heaven, to celebrate Eternal Bliss: And the Lord  
of Lords, who (sitting at the Right Hand of his Fa-  
ther) will shortly come to Judge the World.

Likewise, Some Pithy Arguments to persuade Men to  
close with Christ.

Preached by R. Liford, B. D. since the dreadful Earth-  
quakes that have lately happen'd: particularly that  
in Sicily, near Mount Etna, where Seventy & a Thou-  
sand Six Hundred and Eighty Persons were destroyed.  
And now published, to awaken drowsie Sinners, who  
still lye in Security, whilst God's Judgments are  
on the Earth.

2 Pet. 3. 9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise  
(as some men count slackness) but is long-suffering  
unto us: not willing that any should perish, but  
that all should come to repentance.

LONDON, Printed for J. Barne, at the Coffee-  
house on Ludlow-street, 1687.

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Preached by R. Biford, B. D. since the dreadful Earth-  
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LONDON, Printed for J. Bate, at the Gun-  
powder Office in London-Street, 1680.



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# England's Fair Warning to Repentance, &c.

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LUKE 13. 5.

*I tell you nay; but except ye repent; ye shall all  
likewise perish.*

**I**N the first Verse of this Chapter, you have  
the sad piece of this News, that was told  
Jesus, concerning the Galileans, whose Blood  
Pilate had mingled with their Sacrifices.  
er. 2. you have our blessed Saviour's Answer to  
his News: saith he unto them, Suppose ye that these  
Galileans were sinners, above all the Galileans, because  
they suffer such things? I tell you, nay: but except  
ye Repent, ye shall all likewise perish. And yet further,  
er. 4. Of those eighteen, upon whom the Tower of Siloe  
fell, and slew them; think you, that they were sinners,  
above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you,  
nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise  
perish. This former part of the Chapter con-  
tains the Sermon of Repentance, that was  
preached by our blessed Saviour.

Repentance is a pure Gospel-Grace; it comes  
by Jesus Christ; he hath purchased by his  
blood, that repenting Sinners shall be saved.

England's true Warning to Repentance.

The Doctrine I shall raise from these Words, is,

That it is a great Duty incumbent upon Chri-

stians, to Repent, and turn to the Lord: Or  
Of It with highly conceits the People when the Lord  
visiterh with his Judgements, to strive to turn  
him, by Repentance, and Faith in Jesus Christ.

Repentance and Conversion, is the only way to  
Salvation. I need not stay to open the Text to  
you, and to prove it by Scripture: For if thou  
beest a Man or Woman, that dost believe the  
Word of God, then thou believest, that without  
Repentance, none can be saved, as the Text hath  
it. But I say unto you, Except ye repent, ye shall  
likewise perish. Well then, what sayest thou  
Sinner? Dost thou believe, or not? Thou must  
either confess, that this is true; or say plainly  
that you will not believe the Word of God: and  
if once you are come to that pass, there is but small  
hopes of you. Look to your selves as well as you  
can; for 'tis like you will not be long out of this.  
You would be ready to lie in the face of him that  
give you the Lye; and dare you give the Lye to  
God? If you will not believe the words of our  
blessed Saviour, whose will you? And doth not he  
say, That except ye repent, ye shall perish? He doth  
not say you may perish, but you shall: Nay, there  
is no doubt of it; let God be True, and every Man  
a Lyar: Christ hath spoken it, Luke 10. 13. If ye  
will not, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom, in the  
day of judgement, than it shall be for this people.  
Nations; but believe not these words of our Saviour.

Up 1

## England's Fair Warning to Repentance.

Use 1. Is this a truth, That Repentance is the only way to prevent the judgments of God hanging over our Heads, because of our Sin; then, best of all, I would entreat you, observe the cursed nature of this cursed thing called Sin: you see, Sin must be repented of, or we shall all perish, or we shall all be damned: Sin will utterly destroy both our Bodies and Souls. I think it is one of the hardest things that is, to understand the deadly Poyson that is in Sin: Sin is that which the Lord hates. *The soul that sins, shall surely die: This was the Old Law. But the Gospel of Christ saith, Repent and forsake your sins: Or, Repent and believe, and you shall be saved.*

Use 2. Is Repentance the way and means to prevent a People or Nation from perishing? Then from hence you may learn the Excellency and the usefulness of that Grace of Repentance. Oh! What an Omnipotent Grace is this! It is a Grace that can do any thing with God: This Grace of Repentance can redeem our mortgag'd Blessings; it can make us a happy People, Jer. 31. 18, 19, 20. *I have sorely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: Turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art my Lord my God. Surely, after I was turned, I repented; and after I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed; yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. Is Ephraim my dear Son, is he a pleasant Child; for since I speak against him, I do earnestly remember him*

England? *For Whoring to Repentance.*

his Fall; therefore my Heavels are turned for him  
I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the  
Lord; From hence you may observe, That Re-  
penting Sinners are exceeding precious in the  
sight of the Lord; his heart is turned towards  
them; Oh! What an excellent Privilege hath  
penitent heart with God! My Beloved, How  
can you live without such a Grace to your Soul  
want it; your Families want it; and the Na-  
tion stands in need of it: The greatest Want this  
day in England, is a broken Heart: *Isa. 60. 1*

*Use 3.* Is Repentance the only way to prevent  
Judgments? Then from hence gather, That  
when God either hath his Plagues upon a Peo-  
ple, or continues threatening his Judgments to-  
wards them, it is a sign that those People are  
very guilty of Impenitency. If God threatens  
thee, O England, to give thee up to hardness of  
heart, and blindness of mind: Doth God do it  
at this day? They say (O England!) thou art  
an impenitent People at this day. O England  
this is my Charge against thee, You have been a  
stiff-necked People. O London! London! How  
long shall the Lord wait upon thee, before thou  
wilt repent? What can you expect, but that God  
will yet visit England with his Judgment, till we  
be humbled, and heartily repent us of our Sins.  
It is for Sin, that the Nation mourns. Oh, the  
Swearing, Whoring, and Sabbath-breaking,  
Schism, and Disobedience to Magistrates, is this  
day in London! O you sinful Generation, is  
this your requiting of God for all his Mer-  
cies?

England's Fair Warning to Repentance.

7

ies? *Deut. 32. 6. Do ye thus requite the Lord, ye foolish and unwise!* What say ye? Will you repent, or not? This is my Question, which I have to ask you this day: Will you Repent? or not flatter your selves about Matters of so great concernment, as your Immortal Souls. Consider this (O Sinners) if you will repent, then you may live happy in the Land of your Nativity, and go to your Death-beds in peace: But if you will not Repent of your Sins; then, I say, you must (instead of Blessings) expect nothing but Curses.

It is plain, that God is angry with you; for God would never have sent so many Judgments after one another. Once more: Will you repent, or will you not? If you will not, your sin lies at your own doors. Do not think it is a hard Question, when I ask you to Repent; but consider, there are two places where there is no repenting: the one is in the Grave, the other in Hell. It were a vain thing for me, to go to the Gates of Hell, and cry to them, Repent; for the Day of Grace is past, and their Doom is called upon them. I do verily think, that there is more sorrowing in Hell for sin, than there is this Day in *England*; but their sorrow is not a sanctified sorrow: If the Damned in Hell were delivered out of Hell, they would sin again; if they lived eternally, they would sin eternally. But I am not a speaking to Men in Hell, but to you Sinners in *England*.



England's Fair Warning to Repentance.

1. I say unto you, Repent : Because Jesus Christ hath commanded you under great Penalties, if you do not. Consider a little (O Sinner) who 'tis that calls for Repentance : It is not but the great God ; it is Jesus Christ : and doubtless Christ could never have pressed you to this work, if it were not necessary. He saith unto you, Repent : and saith unto you, If you do not your sin shall not be blotted out. Wo be unto that Man or Woman that repenteth not : better it were that he had never been born, that he had never seen the Light : the Parents that bare thee, they may repent that ever thou wert born. It would grieve your Parents, to see you carried to the Gallows to be hanged ; and will not much more grieve them, to see you call Body and Soul, into everlasting Burnings. Then to be tormented with the Devil and his Angels for ever.

2. Repent : for Christ hath encouraged you with many precious Promises : he will heal your back-sliding, and love you freely ; though your sins be as Mountains, he will make them as Mole-hills ; though as Red as Scarlet, he will make them as White as Milk.

But some will Object, and say, This is a Hard Work. What ! shall we always go with Tears in our Eyes ? What will God give us for our Repentance ?

Ah ! poor Sinner ! fear not : do not question your Reward ; for as sure as God is true, so sure thou shalt have Christ, Heaven and Glory, and



be happy for ever. Sinners, methinks it should make you to quake, to think how God will deal with you at the great and dreadful Day of Judgment, when he shall say, *Take him Devils, bind him hand and foot, and sling him into everlasting burning; where shall be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth.* Oh! it is a dreadful Sentence, to be adjudged to Everlasting Fire; and look for it, Sinner, if thou wilt not repent, these are the words that thou shalt hear Christ pronounce against thee, *Depart from me, I know you not.* And thou may'st be sure (O Sinner) if thou art not with Christ, thou must be with the Devil, thou must be either in Heaven or Hell.

3. Repent, because the Lord hath long waited upon you: How long hath God stood at the Doors of your Hearts, wooing and beseeching you to repent? How long (O thou proud Man or Woman!) hath God called unto thee? How often hath he knocked at your hard Hearts? But you would not let him in. Oh, thou grey-headed Sinner! God hath long waited on thee, it may be, ever since thou wast Fifteen or Sixteen Years of age, to see if thou wouldest repent, *Rom. 2. 4.* Or despisest thou the Righteous of his Goodness, and Forbearance, and Long-suffering, not knowing that the Goodness of God tendeth thee to Repentance? There is not a Blessing that thou hast from God, but it hath his writ upon it, *Repent of thy Sins.* Wilt thou think of this? When God puts the Bread into thy Hands, he saith unto thee, Sinner, Take this  
Bread.

10 England's Fair Warning to Repentance.

Bread, Eat, and Repent : And when God puts the Cup of Beer into thy Hands, he saith unto the Sinner, Take this Cup of Beer and Repent : When thou risest in the Morning, he saith unto thee, Sinner, Take this Suit of Cloaths, put it on, and Repent : Every Mercy that thou receivest from God, calls to thee for Repentance.

4. If you will Repent, and leave your Sins, God will not be angry with you. My Beloved, you have heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son, who when he had spent all, he returned home to his Father's House : so, my Beloved, God is your Father, but you are Prodigals : all the Sin you have committed against him, is Prodigality. But let me tell you, If you are willing to come to God's Feet, he will take you about the Neck : If you are willing to forsake your sins, God is willing and ready to pardon your sins, though you have been a wicked, rebellious, and sinful People ; yet if you will turn to the Lord, he will turn to you.

5. Repent ; because the Lord sendeth his Messengers unto you, for to intreat you to Repent. Woe be unto you, therefore, if you neglect this great Salvation. You know, that it was one main Reason, why God took away his Prophets and Ministers from Jerusalem, because they would not hearken to their Messengers : as you may read, *Mat. 23. 37, 38, 39.* O Jerusalem ! Jerusalem ! thou that killest the Prophets, and stonest them that were sent unto thee.

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How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not? Behold, your houses are left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. I may very well apply this to London. Oh! how often would the Lord have gathered you, even as a Hen gathereth her Chickens? but ye would not. What say you now, England? O London! will you Repent? or will you not? Will not all this that hath been said, prevail with you? Alas, I am heartily sorry, to see that nothing will prevail with you, but the Flames of Hell! Oh, then you would say, Oh! if we had but hearkened unto the Voice of God's Messengers, that were sent unto us, to call us to Repentance.

6. O England! Repent to day, and turn to the Lord. O! delay not an hour longer; Time is a precious Jewel, more worth than the whole World; and if Time be once lost, there is no regaining of it. O fall down upon your Knees, and bless God that you have yet the Light of the Gospel, and that you have Time left to secure your Souls, and get an Interest in Jesus Christ.

First, Consider how dreadful it will be to you, when you come to die, if you do not Repent and turn to the Lord, while you are in health. O how will you cry out, when your

12 *England's Fair Warning to Repentance.*

Hour of Death approaches, when you shall see all the things of the Earth fail you, and take their leaves of you for ever. All your outward Enjoyments, Parts, Parentage, Birth, Breeding, Wealth, Crowns, Kingdoms, Pearls, Diamonds, Houses, Lands, Wife, Children and Friends, when once your Breath is gone, all these are gone, *Prov. 27. 24.* Hear now this, you that are given to Pleasure, that feast your selves in doing evil; you that put far from you the Day of the Lord; you that say, It is time enough to Repent, when we come to die. Ah, Fools, how do you know whether God will give you Repentance then, or no.

Sirs, I beseech you, Repent, while it is called to Day; for you know not whether you shall live till to morrow.

O consider, with a trembling heart, how much depends upon this Repenting, and turning to God; namely, the gaining or losing thy dear and precious Soul; gaining or losing of God's Favour, the Fruition of God, the Joys of Heaven, or the Torments or Sorrows of Hell depend upon it. Poor Souls, I pity you with my very heart, to see how ignorant you are of so great Concernments: you Eat and Drink, Sleep, Lye, Sell, and get Gain in the World; but little do you mind to accumulate heavenly Treasure, to get your sinking Souls safe a-shore. You consider not the evil day: woe be unto him that is alone in Life, and alone

alone in Death, that has no Christ to befriend him, or stand by him in that day; that cometh to lye down in his Grave, without Peace or Pardon, without hearty Contrition, without Repenting of his Sins: and shall Rise again, and stand at the Bar of God's Justice, without an Advocate to plead for him.

7. And *Lastly*, Try your Repentance by the Word of God; see whether it be true Repentance, or no; for the Devil hath many Cheats: search your own Hearts, to see whether those Sins you formerly loved, be now hated and thunned by you.

Make ready for the other World; think upon the other World, think upon Death and Judgment: Death, that King of Terrors, will, e're long, terminate your Days, and then all your Opportunities will be gone for ever. Let me ask you, as in the Presence of the Great Judge of Quick and Dead, at whose Tribunal you must all shortly stand, and giving an Account of your Deeds) be either received up into Heaven, or plunged into Hell. I have some Queries to ask you:

*First*, Are not they in a very happy Condition, that (Repenting) turn to the Lord with their whole Hearts; living a Life of Grace, and truly preparing for Death, for fear of losing their own Souls, being in a hazzard of losing Heaven? *Rom. 8. 7. Psal. 37. 37.*

*Secondly* Do you believe that Death will come, and that sin, that cursed thing, will sting,



14 *England's Fair Warning to Repentance.*

sting; and that the Case of all impenitent Sinners, at the hour of Death will be sad and terrible, and desperate? Let me say to all such, there is not a Night you lie down on your Beds, but you run a very great hazard, if Death should call, and you not ready, you must go, though you are ruin'd to all Eternity, though you be damned forever, *Mat. 25. 10, 11, 12, 13.*

*Thirdly*, Can you cheerfully entertain the thoughts of Death, and Judgments, all you hard hearted Sinners, that have not Repented? Suppose the dreadful Judge should at this instant send Death with the Names of Five, or Six of you in a Writ, or Forehead, and Death should say, You, and you, this Man, and that Woman, must go along with me; I have received a Command from the great terrible God, who hath the Power of Death and Hell, to bring you this Day, or Night, before the Judgement-Seat: I have often warned you by sending my Deputies this Ten or Twenty years. Every Grave, and Coffin you have seen, was so many Intimations of my coming: Now, saith Death, I am come, I see my Dart, this Dart must kill thy Body, and send thy Soul into Eternity, I command you at this moment, to bid adieu to this World, *Luk. 12. 19, 20.* How can you think of your dying, and the Worlds burning, the Trumpets sounding, the Dead Corps raising, and standing at the Bar of God's Justice, and not fear, and

*Loose 168*



and tremble you that have not Repented: you, sons and Daughters of Pleasure, did you consider what horror and astonishment dogs you on the Heels, which will inevitably come upward on you, as Travel on a Woman with Child, you would not say unto God, depart.

*Fourthly*, And lastly, Oh! what a killing and amazing sight will Christ's coming in the Clouds, be to all that either deny his coming, or will not prepare for it by speedy Repentance: His Incarnation was terrible, *Mat. 2. 3.* His Crucifixion was more terrible, *Luk. 23. 44, 45, 46, 47, 48.* But his Judging the World's on the Great Day, will be most terrible, then shall the Tribes of the Earth mourn *Mat. 24. 30.* And men shall cry to the Rocks to fall on with them, *Rev. 6. 15, 16.* When they shall see the many Thousands, and Millions of Men and Women dragged down to that burning Lake of Fire, and Brimstone, there to be tormented for ever: How will they then cry, Oh that we had Repented! they will howl for vexation of Spirit, and in the bitterness of their Souls wish that they had never heard of Christ, that they had been born among Heathens, or never had a Being, or enjoyed a Life of Pleasure upon Earth. How will the wretched Sinner beat his Breast, pluck off his Hair, tear his Bowels, crying when he is past Hopes, Oh that I had now no Soul, or that this immortal Soul were mortal, that I might not be tormented in these dreadful Flames for ever